

Bedford Boss Sees Cup Rivals Crash

WEALDSTONE WHACK

WANDERERS

Dithery Defence Upsets Winning Run

By "CHILTERN"

Wycombe Wanderers 2, Wealdstone 5

I RECKON that if anyone had come along with a good offer for Wycombe Wanderers' defence on Tuesday night, the club would have sold all six members. For a shocking performance by the back division went a long way towards Wycombe's first home league reverse of the season.

But let us not take any of the glory from Amateur Cup holders Wealdstone. They put up a polished display of super-soccer which ripped great holes in Wycombe's confidence and exposed weaknesses in the Isthmian League's top goal-scorers that they never knew existed.

And in panning Wycombe's second-half performance, let us not forget the grand show they put on in the first-half to take a 2-1 lead after being a goal down in five minutes.

Whatever the result this was grand entertainment for the 3,000 (plus members) crowd, marred only by what seemed to me some shocking decisions by referee Mr. Markham of Woking, which

could well have altered the course of the game. In the first-half he appeared to be wearing blue-tinted glasses, and in the second he seemed to favour the visitors.

That is a generalism. After Wealdstone had deservedly gone ahead in the fifth minute Horseman netted for Wanderers what looked to me to be a perfectly good goal. Mr. Markham disallowed the goal on a linesman's advice.

I don't see how anyone could have been offside.

Paul Bates then banged home two great goals in the 24th minute to put Wycombe ahead, and right on half-time Searle equalised for Wealdstone with the terrific long shot which Maskell was slow to get after.

But this time Mr. Markham ignored the upraised flag of the linesman and allowed the goal. You can understand the frustration of the fans — especially after the Wycombe forwards had played so well to put the side back in the game.

Samuels had hit a post and had a header cleared off the line before Bates made his mark. For his first goal he lofted the ball into the net from almost the touchline after a Merrick header had been cleared. His second came less than a minute later after a great run by Samuels followed by an immaculate cross.

But it wasn't all Wanderers by any means, and Maskell was called on to make several fearless saves on the edge of the penalty area after long balls had beaten Rundle and Gale.

Wealdstone's three second-half goals were all give-aways. Searle broke away on his own and shot into an empty net after Maskell had failed to gather the ball well out. The second came from Bremer's boot while Wycombe stood waiting for an offside decision, and Childs scored the last, breaking away after a Gale mistake, rounding Maskell and scoring.

Gale had his name taken for hacking down Searle after being obstructed, and to round off an eventful evening, Bates missed a penalty — that should have been an indirect free-kick for obstruction — when Goymer made a brilliant save.

Ron Burgess, manager of Wycombe's F.A. Cup opponents Bedford, watched the game. He must have gone home a happy man.

Worley limped off in the 73rd minute with a muscle injury, and Stuart Thompson substituted.

Wycombe — Maskell; Beck, Roystone; Baker, Rundle, Gale; Worley, (Thompson), Samuels, Bates, Horseman, Merrick.

Wealdstone — Goymer; Lambert, Leonard; Townsend, Stanley, Dilsworth; Bremer, Searle, Childs, Allen, Fulkes.